

Jonah - The Global Love of God

For the Love of God Series

Discussion Questions

- **Read Mt. 5:14-16?**
 - What is Jesus calling the church to do?
 - Why? What is the aim of this calling?
 - To whom is the church called to be a light? Who does that include?

- **Read Jonah 1.**
 - Based on what Yancey said about the Ninevites (symbolize the Assyrian Empire), why does Jonah flee God's call? How strongly is Jonah's displeasure pictured in his fleeing?
 - What is the irony between the pagan sailors and the Hebrew prophet? Even in the belly of the fish, how does the writer show an irony between Jonah and the pagan sailors in with Jonah's prayer in **Jonah 2:9-10**?

- **Read Jonah 3.**
 - What happens and what things do you notice about Jonah's time in the city?
 - How does the writer, using satire (e.g., irony, exaggeration, etc. to criticize someone or something), demonstrate this will be Jonah's worst nightmare?

- **Read Jonah 4.**
 - How does Jonah feel? Why? What does he say to God (put in your own words)?
 - What is the lesson of the plant? What is God trying to show Jonah?
 - Why does Jonah end without a resolution?

- **What does Jonah tell us about God's love (and evangelism)?**
 - How does this prompt us to examine the prejudices in our hearts?
 - How can we know if we're prejudiced against groups of people in that we really don't act/speak in a way that would lead them to come to Christ (i.e., "light of the world")?
 - How does our culture celebrate "hate your enemies"? Where do we see this? How is Jesus the exact opposite? Read **Mt. 5:43-44**. Why would Jesus tell us this?

- How do we repent in a way that contrasts Jonah's half-heartedness?
- How is the gospel a message of hope for those who are enemies?
- How does Jonah inform us of our gospel identities as missionaries who share the gospel in word and display its effects in deed?